

NEWS – CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

239 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-5065

[www.stark.house.gov](http://www.stark.house.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Stark Contact: Sarah Baldauf, (202) 225-3202

**STARK ON CONSTITUTIONALITY OF HEALTH REFORM, VA HEARINGS**

□ WASHINGTON – Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), ranking member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, today responded to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' hearing of arguments on two separate cases regarding the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act.

**Rep. Stark:** "Just like Republicans' failed effort to repeal health care reform legislatively, their attempt to see it undone through the judicial process will fall flat. Millions of Americans are already benefitting from the law, and that number only grows as implementation proceeds. I am confident that when the Supreme Court ultimately takes up the question of health care reform's constitutionality, the Justices will find the individual responsibility provision meets the test."

□ Judges Diana Gribbon Motz, Andre Davis, and James Wynn of the Fourth Circuit heard arguments on two cases. In one case – *Liberty University v. Geithner* – U.S. District Court Judge Norman Moon previously ruled in favor of the law's constitutionality. In the other – *Virginia v. Sebelius* – U.S. District Court Judge Henry Hudson ruled against it. Under dispute is whether the individual responsibility provision, which requires Americans to have health insurance by 2014 in the Affordable Care Act, is constitutional. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling is expected in the coming weeks.